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Cherished Members of Our Guard Family

By MG Paul D. Monroe, Jr., The Adjutant General

The most enjoyable part of being The Adjutant General is visiting our Army and Air National Guard units throughout the state and witnessing the exuberance and outstanding performance of our soldiers and airmen. I am constantly impressed whenever I see our bright, energetic young men and women enthusiastically engaged in training: operating sophisticated military equipment, and grasping complicated, high-tech concepts with apparent ease.

The most distasteful part of my job—or any commander's job—is having to send men and women in harm's way. In the past 18 months, over 7,000 members of the California National Guard have left their jobs, their homes, and their loved ones to fight the War on Terrorism at home and abroad. Their positive attitude and indomitable spirit have truly been an inspiration to all—and they have performed magnificently.

I thank them for their patriotism, their outstanding service, and their unselfish dedication to duty. They are cherished members of our Guard family, and we pray for them each day as they stand in harm's way. May God bless them and return them safely to us. 🐻

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